

DESERT AIRMAN

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Airmen help one another through AFAF

By Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

In an effort to help nurture their own, the Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign began Monday and will run until May 6.

"It is an established fund allowing us to contribute to four sponsored charities," said Capt. Daniel Fischer, 355th Wing AFAF project officer.

"It benefits active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired servicemembers, surviving spouses and their families through emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base and community enhancement programs," Captain Fischer said. "The funds also provide rent subsidy and a wide spectrum of aid to widows and widowers of officers and enlisted Airmen."

"The need for (Air Force Aid Society) assistance remains strong," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. "Last

See AFAF, Page 4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce

Attention to detail

Airman 1st Class Erin Rodriguez works on the bomb rack of an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a Phase One Operational Readiness Exercise. Airman Rodriguez is with the 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. For more information about the ORE see **D-M Airmen prove they are ready during 'no notice' ORE**, Page 15.

D-M begins ACC motorcycle mentorship program

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

A new Air Combat Command mentorship program has been implemented at Davis-Monthan that helps new motorcycle riders hone their skills and improve their safety mindset.

"This program is designed to help curb the rising death rate of new riders through the mentorship of experienced motorcycle riders," said

Michael Barnes, 355th Wing ground safety manager.

Under the old program, a new rider who graduated from the Basic Rider Course was authorized to receive a base decal. The new program goes further in preparing a new rider for surviving the critical time of learning to ride and becoming safety minded.

The foundation of this program was the collaboration of multiple agencies.

"The Motorcycle Safety Founda-

tion, Pima Community College, RiderCoaches, Wing Safety and the D-M Motorcycle Advisory Council worked together to develop a roadmap to put a safety program into action," said Master Sgt. Brian Blangsted, vice president of the Motorcycle Advisory Council. "Together, we created the Commanders' Motorcycle Mentorship Program."

The CMMP works as a three-phase process for a new rider to obtain a base motorcycle decal and assure ev-

everything that can be done to prepare a rider has been accomplished.

The first phase of the motorcycle mentorship program is attending the Pima Community College MSF Basic Riders Course taught on base.

The BRC utilizes a learner-centered adult education method that makes the student a participant in their own learning, as opposed to being led step by step by the

See **Motorcycle**, Page 5

The January Davis-Monthan Air Force Base timeline of sorties as of Monday

Squadron	Required	Flown	Annual	Squadron	Required	Flown	Annual
41st ECS	759.4	354.4	2,449.2	162nd OSB	519.1	642.3	2,135.0
43rd ECS	833.5	833.4	2,350.8	354th FS	4,222.3	4,228.1	11,296.5
55th RQS	1003.9	1043.6	2,880.0	357th FS	3,210.0	2,961.7	8,966.0
79th RQS	569.5	652.1	1,451.0	358th FS	3,140.0	3,127.4	8,948.0

Wing annual awards banquet

The 355th Wing will host an annual awards banquet to recognize the outstanding wing performers of 2004 today at 6 p.m. in the Holiday Inn on Palo Verde. For more information, contact individual first sergeants.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce

Col. Michael Spencer, 355th Wing commander, stops to talk to Staff Sergeant Jevon Charles from the 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during a generation period in a Phase One Operational Readiness Exercise.

A job well done

YOU DID IT! Last week, our Desert Lightning Team unquestionably demonstrated it is ready to deploy when called — with absolutely no notice.

Bushwacker 05-03 culminated nearly two years of hard work within the 355th Wing: rebuilding the mobility machine, ensuring everyone is ready to deploy and nursing the health of the A-10 fleet to the best in the command. This building block approach of quarterly

exercises delicately balanced the day-to-day activities across the installation of recovering a strained A-10 fleet while ensuring every Airman is ready to go fight when ordered. A dramatic measure of our success was last week's exercise.

We started last week's Phase One exercise cold — there was no advance warning or any pre-planning. In fact, we had 22 aircraft scheduled or airborne when the prepare to deploy order arrived in the command post. Immediately, without any hesitation, from group commanders to the youngest Airman, you jumped into action as a team. This time, you did not have the anticipated 72 hours between the PTDO and deployment order. Yet, the Desert Lightning Team delivered.

In just 58 hours, you generated and launched 24 A-10s — that is 38 hours faster than the minimum time the Air Combat Command Inspector General would give us. The 355th Maintenance Group executed an incredible game plan that orchestrated and integrated a wide array of focused activity. From fixing broken jets to uploading electronic countermeasure pods, missiles, bullets and fuel tanks; the flight line was alive with activity.

The operations and maintenance groups dovetailed their activities allowing the 354th Fighter Squadron to focus on the deployment while the 357th Fighter Squadron and 358th Fighter Squadron accepted, launched and recovered the aircraft.

Our mobility machine pushed more than 500 Airmen and prepared over 274 short-tons of

cargo for deployment. You did not bust a single chalk and we had only four people who were non-deployable of more than 500 Airmen processed — that is less than a one percent non-deployable rate! This success could not have happened without our Airmen and leadership paying attention to the basics of being "ready to deploy when called" every day.

The entire process on the flightline, in the 355th Medical Group, the mobility line and the countless other activities pulling this together was an eye-watering demonstration of teamwork. Airmen from nearly every squadron across the installation made it happen.

As if that challenge was not enough, the Desert Lightning Team generated aircraft, mobilized cargo and accepted the aircraft in the most miserable weather I have seen in Tucson — it was wet, cold and flat out nasty. I can tell you, my boots were soaked at the end of each day.

All these accomplishments are impressive, but your hard work did not stop when the exercise ended Saturday. The 355th MXG prepared the aircraft for Monday's flying — all three flying squadrons met their flying contract with spares. The operations, mission support and medical group rebounded to their stellar day-to-day activities supporting the diverse mission of the Desert Lightning Team.

Your performance in this past week's exercise was truly incredible. I am extremely proud to be a part of the finest, most professional men and women in our great United States Air Force. Thank you for what you do!

Team D-M Mission Spotlight



The mission of the 355th Medical Group is to ensure medically ready forces (Air and Space Expeditionary Forces) are prepared to win wars and to provide ready expeditionary medical forces by ensuring combat ready expeditionary medical currency through training, delivery of the garrison health care benefit, humanitarian civic assistance and disaster response, and homeland defense.

One of the squadrons in the 355th MDG is the 355th Dental Squadron.

The 355th DS provides high quality dental care to ensure the dental readiness of a fit force, ready to deploy and operate in any location, at any time.

Capt. Jared Kahl, 355th Dental Squadron, searches for cavities with an explorer during an annual exam for Senior Airman Christopher Wilson, 357th Fighter Squadron.



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Dupper-Macy

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DESERT AIRMAN

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D-M gears up for heritage conference

By Stephanie Ritter
355th Wing Public Affairs

March 4 through 6, Air Combat Command's six single-ship demonstration teams will be at Davis-Monthan for a weekend of training.

"The Heritage Conference is essentially an upgrade training program condensed into one weekend," said Maj. Robert Brogan, 355th Operations Group A-10 West Coast Demo pilot and officer in charge. "It teaches new demo pilots how to fly dissimilar formations with vintage aircraft. The conference also provides refresher training for returning demo pilots."

According to the Web site <http://www2.acc.af.mil>, ACC's demo teams include two A-10 Thunderbolt Demonstration Teams, two F-15 Eagle Demonstration Teams and two F-16 Fighting Falcon Demonstration Teams.

Several of the team's objectives include positively affecting Air Force recruitment and retention efforts, keeping the public and military informed of U.S. Air Force preparedness, demonstrating modern weapon systems, promoting community and international relations and reinforcing public confidence in the Air Force.

However, the main focus of the teams during the first weekend in March will be to prepare and get certified for the upcoming air show season.

"On average, we have a 50 percent turnover each year of team personnel," Major Brogan said. "The conference is one of the only opportunities of the season to have the entire team together for formal training. It also allows my team to meet all of the other demo teams and their respective personnel. We exchange ideas and procedures throughout the weekend to make the entire program better."

The ACC single-ship demo pilots will not be the only ones taking to the sky during the conference.

"In addition to the demo teams, we will have two active-duty F-4 pilots joining the program," said Lt. Col. Phil Fluhr, 355th Training Squadron and installation project officer for the HFC. "We also have an F-22 pilot coming to observe training to see what the program entails."



Air Force graphic

Included in the training are 12 civilian Heritage Flight Conference pilots and their vintage war fighters.

It is essential for the military pilots to train with HFC pilots because typical air shows include a portion of the program when old and new aircraft fly together to demonstrate the variety of capabilities of each aircraft, Colonel Fluhr said.

"We try to get as many (combinations) of aircraft (current and vintage) in the sky as possible during the HFC because pilots never know who they are going to be asked to fly with during an airshow," Colonel Fluhr said. "Not every pilot will be able to attend every airshow throughout the year so the conference makes sure they are qualified to fly with as many as possible."

"On any given weekend throughout the airshow season, we could be paired together to fly a Heritage Flight," Major Brogan said. "The HFC provides an opportunity for standardized training and allows us to practice before we perform for the public."

(Editor's note: This is one of a series of articles scheduled to run in the Desert Airman leading up to the Heritage Flight Conference.)

Three 55th ECG Airmen receive recognition from 55th Wing

The 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., honored three 55th Electronic Combat Group Airmen from Davis-Monthan at the 55th Wing Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 11.

Congratulations to the following 55th ECG Airmen who were selected as 55th Wing annual award winners:

Master Sgt. Leo Chang,
755th Operational Support Squadron

Senior Noncommissioned Officer
of the Year

Master Sgt. Paul Myers,
43rd Electronic Combat Squadron
First Sergeant of the Year

Capt. Josh Koslov,
41st Electronic Combat Squadron
Company Grade Officer of the Year

News Notes

Black history month event

An ethnic food tasting event called "Tastes and Tones," will be held at the base chapel today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a free event. For more information call Tech. Sgt. Robin Hawkins at 228-2688 or Tech. Sgt. Robin Boyd at 228-5620.

Holiday AAFES hours

The following Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities will operate during listed times Monday for Presidents Day:

Alltel: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barber shop: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beauty shop: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burger King: closed

Car Care Center/shoppette/Class Six: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

GNC: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Home and garden center: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Housing shoppette: closed

Laundry/drycleaners: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Main exchange: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Munitions inventory

The 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight will conduct a semi-annual 100 percent base stock inventory March 1 through 31 which will limit customer support. Requests for munitions assets must be submitted by Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Requests received after this require an emergency issue letter. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Stephen Bailey or Staff Sgt. Patrick Blevins at 228-8632.

Scholarship deadlines

The D-M Officers' and Enlisted Spouses Associations scholarship applications must be postmarked by Feb. 28. Applications are available at the base education office, family support center, community center and child development centers. For information, e-mail dawnish2@aol.com. Military Officers Association of America scholarship applications must be submitted by March 1. For more information about this scholarship or to get an application, visit www.moaa.org.

MPOY banquet

The 355th Maintenance Group will host the 2004 Maintenance Professional of the Year Awards Banquet Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. in the Pima Air and Space Museum. Retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez will be the guest speaker. Tickets are available through group chiefs. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kevin Biggs at 228-0689.

Terrorism history

Feb. 16, 1992, Hizbollah general secretary Abbas Musawi was killed in an Israeli helicopter ambush near the village of Jibsheets in South Lebanon.

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Airmen were saved from the consequences of driving under the influence by the Airmen Against Drunk Driving Program since Dec. 31.

Call AADD at
850-2233

Friday through Saturday from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
and Sunday from 4 p.m. to midnight for a ride.

Education

BTES offers assistance, guidance to those pursuing degree

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

The base training and education services office provides numerous programs designed to help the Desert Lightning Community reach their educational goals.

Whether students are completing their Community College of the Air Force degree, seeking to receive a commission or striving for a master's degree, the personnel at the BTES office are available to aid them.

"It goes without saying that a college graduate will earn approximately \$1,000,000 in their lifetime more than high school graduates," said Phil King, BTES flight chief. This amount goes even higher with advanced degrees. Imagine the difference in quality of life between a high school degree earner and a college degree earner. Although, a college degree is no guarantee of a high paying job, it can open doors and provide a lot more opportunities.

"Our services are available for all active-duty members, retirees, dependents and Department of Defense employees," Mr. King said. "We also provide limited services to Guard and Reserve personnel; however, Guard and Reserve members activated to full-time duty receive the same services as our active duty personnel with limitations in some programs as directed by Air Force."

If the thought of returning to school seems somewhat overwhelming, the BTES staff is ready to provide their assistance.

The office is manned by Mr. King, Nancy Lucas and Danny Adkins, both education technicians, Norma White and Rafael Maldonado, both education counselors, and Claudia Rodriguez, Martin Rodriguez and Rosanne Green, all contactors.

The BTES staff offers a few courses of action to individuals who are uncertain what field of study they should pursue.

"I would recommend taking the Kuder Interest Inventory," Mr. King said. This is not a test but a profile developed from answers to questions provided by the applicant providing a list of possible college majors they should research relating to their interest and skills.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle

Rafael Maldonado, 355th Wing Base Education and Training Services office, assists Staff Sgt. David Henry, 358th Fighter Squadron, with paperwork. Sergeant Henry is working to achieve his bachelor's degree.

The Kuder Interest Inventory is offered at no cost, said Mr. Maldonado. The test is mailed out for analysis and the results are sent to the BTES office.

In addition, the BTES offers a self directive survey, which can be assessed the same day, Mr. Maldonado said.

If a student still feels confused about their best choice for a college major, Mr. King has another recommended course of action.

This is an important decision and time should be taken to explore the options each individual has, Mr. King said. The best way is to start by taking a liberal arts degree approach. This degree covers all academic areas in the first two years of college course work such as math, science, psychology, sociology, foreign languages, history and so on. This approach provides a wide range of courses and allows for each individual to see where their interests and skills fall.

The BTES office, located in Building 3200, offers walk-in services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for general questions and assistance.

Community College of the Air Force walk-in hours are provided Monday through Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m.

As a general guide, those scheduling an initial CCAF meeting should bring transcripts or a print out of courses they have already completed, Mr. Maldonado said.

For complex or time consuming issues, appointments can be scheduled by calling 228-3813.

For additional information on educational opportunities, visit the BTES homepage at www.dm.af.mil/educate.

(Editor's note: This article is part one of a three part series focusing on the base education and training services office.)

AFAF

Continued from Page 1

year, the Air Force Aid Society helped more than 30,000 Airmen with \$21.1 million in assistance — that is a lot of help."

"I have worked with several people who have received help during family emergencies through the Air Force Aid Society and I'm sure I will come in contact with many more as the project officer," Captain Fischer said.

Airmen can donate money through various methods of payment.

"We can donate through cash, check,

money order or payroll deduction to one of the four charities," Captain Fischer said. "Members can also volunteer to help out with the fundraisers and events sponsored on base."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper recently announced a \$5.4 million AFAF goal for 2005. Last year, Airmen gave \$6.7 million to the fund.

The AFAF offers four different charities to donate to, all with their own purpose:

◆ The Air Force Aid Society, which provides Airmen and their families worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance and an array of base-level community-en-

hancement programs. Information is available online at www.afas.org.

◆ The Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow's Fund supports the Air Force Enlisted Village, located in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. near Eglin Air Force Base. The village provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted Airmen 55 years old and older. More information is available online at www.afenlistedwidows.org.

◆ The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, which is a life-care community in San Antonio for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The Air Force Village Web site is www.airforcevillages.com.

◆ The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides rent and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted Airmen in their own homes and communities. The LeMay Foundation Web site is www.info@lemayfoundation.org.

Contributions to the AFAF are tax-deductible.

For more information, visit www.afassistancefund.org or the Air Force Personnel Center's Voting and Fundraising Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund.

(Editor's note: Some of the information provided in this article was courtesy of Air Force News.)

Motorcycle —

Continued from Page 1

RiderCoach. In the classroom, students participate in groups, interacting with each other and the RiderCoaches. The exercises on the riding range first deal with low-speed maneuvering, instructing students on balancing and stabilizing the motorcycle to inspire confidence and then focus on basic riding skills as well as traffic management strategies.

The two-day class can take someone who has limited knowledge about motorcycles and provide them with tools for effective learning. During the course, helmets and motorcycles are provided to the students by Pima Community College.

The class is ideal for inexperienced riders or those considering purchasing a motorcycle, Sergeant Blangsted said. It gives people the ability to “test the water” before actually committing to the purchase of a motorcycle.

The second phase begins upon graduation from the BRC; students will receive the MSF BRC Completion Card. This card allows students to obtain a temporary base pass for their



Photo by Master Sgt. Brian Blangsted

Volunteer mentors look on as Tech. Sgt. Bill Cook, Intermediate RiderCourse for Mentors instructor, demonstrates proper technique on his motorcycle. A program adopted by D-M requires all new motorcycle riders to complete the Pima Community College MSF Basic Riders Course, Commander's Motorcycle Mentorship program and IRC before they can receive a permanent base decal for their motorcycle.

motorcycles. The students are then entered into the mentorship phase of the program.

“In this phase, new riders are assigned mentors,” Mr. Barnes said. “The mentors then begin working with new riders to help improve their skills, evaluate their perception of safety and prepare them for passing the Intermediate Riders Course.”

Length of the mentorship phase depends upon the new rider's skill level and safety mindset.

“Mentors work with new riders

and are responsible for letting commanders know when the riders in their squadron are ready for entry into the Intermediate Riders Course,” Sergeant Blangsted said.

During the third phase, the mentoree is enrolled in the IRC.

This course is a half-day course designed to graduate riders who have received one-on-one mentorship and passed established criteria set by the MSF, Sergeant Blangsted said. At the end of the IRC course, students will be able to receive a permanent base

decal for their motorcycle.

Individuals interested in becoming a mentor must attend the special IRC-for-Mentors class.

“This class gives new mentors the ability to see what is taught, verifies abilities and provides mentors with the tools needed to help new riders,” Sergeant Blangsted said. “It also ensures all new riders receive the same instruction and information across the base.”

“Both the BRC and IRC are taught by licensed military MSF RiderCoaches in conjunction with Pima Community College's MSF program,” said Staff Sergeant Christopher Wilson, one of D-M's three military MSF RiderCoaches. “A controlled environment with experienced military RiderCoaches, and mentors who poses the desire to influence and train their fellow troops, are key to a great mentorship program.”

The classes are limited to a maximum number of twelve students. Currently the courses are paid for by each squadron utilizing the government purchase card. Efforts are underway to centrally fund all IRC sessions for one year.

For more information about the three-phase program, call 228-5342.

CRIME & Punishment

Legal tip of the week

Airmen have only one opportunity to appeal an Article 15 punishment. An appeal package must be submitted in five calendar days after the punishment is imposed.

For more information, contact Capt. Roger Picker, Area Defense Counsel, at 228-5664.

Article 15s from Jan. 29 through Feb. 11

◆ A staff sergeant from the 563rd Maintenance Squadron received a suspended reduction to senior airman, forfeiture of \$518 pay, 45 days

extra duty and a reprimand for **failure to report for duty and for making a false official statement**. These were violations of Articles 86 and 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

◆ An airman first class from the 563rd MXS received a suspended reduction to airman basic, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand for **failure to contact duty section during minimum manning week**. This was a violation of Article 92 of the UCMJ.

◆ A technical sergeant from the 355th Security Forces Squadron received a suspended reduction to staff sergeant, 30 days extra duty and a

reprimand for **indecent language**. This was a violation of Article 134 of the UCMJ.

◆ An airman basic from the 355th EMS received a vacated forfeiture of \$312 for **failure to report to duty**. This was a violation of Article 86 of the UCMJ.

◆ An airman first class from the 355th EMS was **discharged** with a general characterization for a **pattern of misconduct** supported by two Article 15s, four letters of reprimand and two records of individual counseling.

◆ An airman basic from the 355th SFS was **discharged** with a general

characterization for **minor disciplinary infractions** supported by two Article 15s, one vacation of suspended non judicial punishment and one LOR.

(Editors note: Information courtesy of the 355th Wing Judge Advocate's Office. The same offense can result in different punishments for each offender. The offender's commander considers several factors when determining punishment, which include: the offender's service record, previous incidents, seriousness of the offense and impact on unit discipline, cohesion and morale.)

12th Air Force implements new procedures to access headquarters building

All individuals going to 12th Air Force Headquarters located in Building 12 should be aware of new gate procedures:

- ◆ Members are required to swipe their 12th Air Force access badge to gain entry.
- ◆ Once a card is swiped, the vehicle operator must proceed through the gate. After passing

through the gate, ensure the arm lowers before leaving. If the gate does not lower call SouthAF Operations Cell at 228-1769.

- ◆ Each individual will swipe their card only after the preceding vehicle has passed through the gate and the drop arm is completely down.
- ◆ **Drivers should not attempt entry by fol-**

lowing another vehicle ("piggybacking") through the gate. The gate is designed to allow single vehicle entry. If "piggybacking" is attempted, vehicle damage is likely to occur.

- ◆ Members who require entry and do not have a badge should contact Master Sgt. Jonathan Rouse at 228-6881.

Benefits

Pentagon, Senate seek doubling of G.I. survivors' benefit

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Pentagon leaders and Capitol Hill legislators want to increase the current available combined government death benefit for families of fallen servicemembers by about \$250,000.

If enacted, the proposed change essentially would double the \$262,000 now available to families of servicemembers killed in wartime operations, said Dr. David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The issue has been under study for two years.

Senior defense leaders "believe that sum ought to be nearer to \$500,000," Dr. Chu told the panel, by increasing the maximum coverage offered by the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and raising the separate death gratuity payment.

The current survivor's death grat-

"There is nothing in the financial sense that we can do to replace a lost servicemember."

Dr. David Chu

Undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness

uity payment, which is tax-free, is about \$12,420. Survivors of servicemembers killed during war operations also now can receive \$250,000 in maximum SGLI coverage, if they elected to do so.

The Department of Defense and Senate proposals would increase the death gratuity payment to \$100,000, and boost maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000. The Pentagon would pay the premiums for the extra \$150,000 in SGLI coverage when participating servicemembers are deployed in a combat zone.

A plan under discussion, if approved by Congress and the president, would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, the day Operation End-

uring Freedom began in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government "already provides a significant set of programs to help the families of those who give their lives in service to the country," Dr. Chu said. Current compensation programs now available to surviving spouses with children provide about dollar-for-dollar, what the military member was earning on active service.

"(The) DoD also provides transitional housing assistance for surviving spouses and children," Dr. Chu said, "as well as access to the Tricare health system and commissary and exchange systems, and surviving spouse and children's education benefits."

The proposed increase in survivor's monetary benefits would also provide "greater recognition" of the sacrifices America's servicemembers have made during the war on terrorism, said Sen. John Warner of Virginia, chairman of the committee. The DoD officials reported Feb. 1 that 1,415 Americans have died in Iraq and 156 others died in Afghanistan and other wartime theaters during the war on terror.

During the hearing, some Senate members said that survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were paid an average of \$2 million per family. The proposed changes to G.I. death benefits for survivors would not apply to families of servicemembers killed during those terrorist attacks.

"There is nothing in the financial sense that we can do to replace a lost servicemember," Dr. Chu said.

Yet, the government can provide "the appropriate financial tools to comfort surviving spouses and families so they can go forward," he said.

Gen. Davis continues to serve as a role model

Benjamin Davis, an aviation pioneer, is one of the most famous Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. However, his military career spanned five decades and three wars.

While in the service he fought to demonstrate black Airmen could perform as well as white Airmen and to prove an integrated Air Force would perform better.

He was the first African-American officer in the Army Air Forces, and was a member of the first African-American pilot-training class at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama.

He was born in December 1912 in Washington, D.C., the son of a retired Army brigadier general. General Davis was the first African-American to graduate from West Point in this century. His four years there were not pleasant. Because he was black, he was officially "silenced" by all cadets — no one spoke to him for four years except on official business; he roomed alone and he had no friends.

General Davis served in the infantry and taught military science at Tuskegee until May 1941 when he transferred to the Air Corps. He earned his wings in March 1942. Because of the war and his ability, promotion followed rapidly. As a lieutenant colonel in 1942, six months shy of his 30th birthday, Davis assumed command of Tuskegee Army Air Base's 99th Fighter Squadron, the oldest and most famous unit of the Tuskegee Airmen, first in North Africa and later to Sicily.

While General Davis commanded the Tuskegee



Air Force graphic

Col. Benjamin Davis was the first African-American officer in the Army Air Forces. He was advanced to the rank of general by President Bill Clinton Dec. 9, 1998.

Airmen, the all-black flying group did not lose a single bomber to enemy aircraft during escort missions in World War II.

Segregation ended in the services in 1948 with a presidential decree. General Davis then attended

Air War College, served in the Pentagon, where he gained approval to create the Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team.

General Davis served two tours in Germany with 12th Air Force and at Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He then returned to the United States and held various staff assignments until he returned to the Philippines as commander of the 13th Air Force, Clark Air Force Base.

He retired from the service Feb. 1, 1970. His military decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Philippine Legion of Honor.

The aviation pioneer is one of three officers in history given his fourth star after retirement when President Bill Clinton pinned him on Dec. 9, 1998.

"If we follow your example, American will always be strong, growing stronger," President Clinton said. "We will always be a leader for democracy, opportunity and peace. We will be able to fulfill the promise of our founders to be a nation of equal rights and dignity for all, whose citizens pledge to each other our life, our fortune, our sacred honor, in pursuit of that more perfect union."

General Davis died July 4, 2002 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. of Alzheimer's disease at age 89.

(Information courtesy of Air Force Link)



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Farrow

Celebrating in the desert

Ground crew members soak Master Sgt. Charles Ray, an airborne maintenance technician with the 43rd Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, with sparkling grape soda after Sergeant Ray completed his final mission in Southwest Asia. Sergeant Ray recently returned to Davis-Monthan for his retirement ceremony. Sergeant Ray flew more than 5,000 hours during his 20 year Air Force career.

Public notice

AF releases WINDO EA

The U.S. Air Force has prepared a draft environmental assessment to analyze the potential impacts of implementing the wing infrastructure development outlook for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

The WINDO identifies construction and demolition projects proposed to improve facilities at Davis-Monthan, which will ensure the installation has the upgrades necessary to support its mission to protect and preserve the national interests of the United States.

A copy of the draft EA and draft finding of no significant impact will be available for review at the following locations:

- ◆ D-M library, 5427 East Madera Street;
- ◆ Tucson Public Library, Wilmot Branch, 530 North Wilmot Road and
- ◆ Tucson Public Library, Miller Branch, 9640 East Golf Links Road.

Public comments on the EA for infrastructure improvements to Davis-Monthan are welcome.

Please provide any comments on the analysis presented in this draft EA by March 14 to:

355th CES/CEVA
5285 East Madera Street
Tucson, Ariz. 85707
Attention: Dr. C.W. Miller

Airmen continue to succeed

Commander's advice promotes mission accomplishment, endurance, cohesion

By Col. Mark Noyes

563rd Rescue Group commander

As an Air Force, our mission introduces limited aerospace resources to many operations in support of U.S. national objectives.

The combat units here that support these operations are no less diverse considering the variety of aircraft, crews and support organizations that reside at Davis-Monthan. It is indeed a tribute to the D-M team that it continues to perform its missions with a keen focus on mission success supported by a heavy emphasis on standards and discipline.

There are challenges however, that could threaten the outstanding record and deserved recognition D-M warriors have earned. Together, we need to be aware of them to ensure they do not prevail.

First, we must continue to ensure an environment exists here that permits our people to succeed.

We have a tremendous team here at D-M and it is up to all of us to recognize opportunities such as attendance at technical courses, professional military education or computer-based training courses which make our people more competitive and productive.

I recently had a person in my group scheduled to attend seven-level school who subsequently received a remote permanent change of station assignment in Korea.

The orders mandated a report-not-later-than date effectively cancelling his attendance to seven-level school.

As you can imagine, this individual was frustrated by the prospect of leaving the continental U.S. knowing his opportunity to attend seven-level school will be delayed another year.

However, after it was brought to his squadron commander's attention, and a few late-night overseas calls to his prospective commander were

"There are challenges however, that could threaten the outstanding record and deserved recognition D-M warriors have earned. Together, we need to be aware of them to ensure they do not prevail."

Colonel Mark Noyes,
563rd Rescue Group commander

made, a later RNLTD was coordinated so he could attend his seven-level course prior to his PCS.

In my book, this is a win for everyone concerned.

We must also ensure the quality of our force does not erode.

It is up to each of us to keep our enviable standards from falling.

Fortunately, we have been blessed with some of the best and brightest America has to offer and I am proud of the accomplishments they make everyday.

However, for those few who are not meeting our standards in the performance of their duties, we must demonstrate the courage to make them aware of their shortfalls.

I use the term courage because it is easier to tell someone everything is fine, rather than being honest and letting him or her know they need to improve in a certain area.

It is truly the coward in an organization who will speak disrespectfully about an individual behind their back rather than approach the person and try to work with them to ensure they understand where they need to improve.

However, just ensuring someone understands

they need to improve their performance does not mean we have completed our task at keeping the standard in place.

Once you have been honest about a person's performance, it is also your responsibility to work with them and offer creative ways to improve. We owe every opportunity to remedy any possible performance shortfalls to those who demonstrate a real desire to continue to contribute to our worthy mission.

We must all continue to maintain an environment which encourages respect and endorses strong moral character.

Stay away from rumor or innuendo when hearing of something that is not quite right and have the strength to put a stop to these extremely damaging acts.

Falling prey to rumor tears at the very fabric of any organization and compromises its opportunity for success.

As Mark Twain is often quoted as saying, "Always do what is right. This will surprise some people and astonish the rest."

I also believe when you are willing to demonstrate the character to do what is right, it significantly contributes to the positive impression you leave with your supervisors and peers and the overall health of your organization.

Finally, have fun and make sure you enjoy all life has to offer.

Use your leave, you are entitled to it. It not only refreshes you but makes your work environment more enjoyable for your coworkers as well.

Herb Kelleher, president of Southwest Airlines would agree, "Seek people who have balance in their lives, who are fun to hang out with, who like to laugh (at themselves, too) and who have some non-job priorities which they approach with the same passion that they do their work."

Now it is up to you to make this happen and succeed spectacularly.

Final Answer

How do you keep yourself "Fit to Fight?"



**2nd Lt.
Christina Perez**
355th Communications
Squadron

"I take advantage of every opportunity provided to me by my squadron and the fitness centers, such as unit workout, free aerobics and circuit training classes."



**Maj.
Kevin Wolf**
41st Electronic
Combat Squadron

"I take the time given to us during our day to work out, play soccer in an adult league and I chase my kids around."



**Master Sgt.
Jess Mendoza**
355th Wing

"I conduct three mandatory physically training sessions a week for the wing and on top of that, I watch what I eat."



**Master Sgt.
Tyrone Manual**
563rd Rescue
Group

"Spiritually, I go to church to find an outlet to relieve pressures. God is a good outlet. Physically, I go to the gym about four times a week to work off the day-to-day pressures."



**Capt.
Hector Lopez**
12th Air
Force

"I run four times a week, five miles at a time. I also lift weights at the gym to build muscle tone three to four times a week"



**Tech. Sgt.
Oran Mansker**
355th Logistics
Readiness Squadron

"I participate in squadron physical training. I also lift weights. I have a treadmill and a stairmaster at home, and I try to eat the right things."

355th MSS Airman receives recognition at NCO academy

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Robert McCubbins, who was named distinguished graduate of his noncommissioned officer academy class Feb. 10.

Symposium students complete 32,000 hours of instruction

By 1st Lt. Chuck Widener
Air Force Print News

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Students and instructors said they developed a new appreciation for the word “training” during the 2005 Environmental Training Symposium, which ended Feb. 11.

About 153 instructors taught 111 courses to more than 1,250 students throughout the week-long event.

More than 32,100 hours of instruction were given during the training symposium, which required attendees to participate in at least 26 hours of classes, said J.P. Smith, the symposium director.

On track to complete nearly 30 hours of instruction during the event was Staff Sgt. Jared Scoggins, 355th Maintenance Group Air Force Repair Enhancement Program.

The circuit card technician also is the unit’s environmental coordinator, and he said he learned a lot about where to obtain information for a number of issues relating to his jobs.

“I signed up for 30 classes and pretty much got all the ones I wanted,” he said. “They all have given me a broad overview of everything.”

The safety courses benefited the seven-year veteran the most, he said, but it was the media training course that surprised him.

“I thought it was going to be a horrible two-hour block of instruction,” Sergeant Scoggins said. “But the class taught me a lot. Now I watch the news in a totally different light, and if I was deployed, I feel like I definitely could (work with) the media much better.”

Of those who attended the training symposium from across the Air Force, other government agencies and national academia, about 83 percent attended the event for the first time.

“That tells us there is a big need for the curriculum and training,” Mr. Smith said of the event.

Part of that curriculum — based on trends reported by bases, the Environmental Protection Agency and other organizations — included

a 10-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification course. About 176 students attended the course, which was broken into 10 one-hour classes relating to general safety issues. Each student who completed the course received the certification, which unit officials typically pay \$1,600 per student to obtain.

Another 89 students attended the eight-hour hazardous waste operations refresher course, which is required by federal regulations for enlisted, officer and civilian Airmen who work with hazardous waste.

These two courses alone play a big role in training and certifying people, Mr. Smith said. Combined with the 100 other courses, major command officials are able to use the training symposium to meet their annual training requirements.

“Air Combat Command alone is able to meet 35 to 40 percent of its annual training requirement using this one-week training symposium,” Mr. Smith said. “That means the command can train a large number of people over the course of one

week instead of one year, lowering the training footprint on our wings.”

Staff Sgt. Kristen Fiedler received 28 hours of instruction during the event. The noncommissioned officer in charge of bioenvironmental engineering at Langley Air Force Base, Va., said the week’s worth of training was very beneficial for her.

Sergeant Fiedler attended an asbestos awareness training course, which directly relates to her job and recertifies her in that particular area of her career field.

It is all a part of incorporating cost-effective and focused training to help define mission needs, Mr. Smith said.

“We call it ‘right fit’ training. Our goal is to focus on the training needs of the supporting commands so we can give them a means to obtain the specific skills and knowledge they need to accomplish the mission,” he said. “Our focus is on the customer, and I feel like the training symposium was very successful in accomplishing that need this year.”



Sonoran Spotlight

(Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member — officer, enlisted or civilian — of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.)



Courtesy photo

This week's Sonoran Spotlight is Senior Airman Joseph Vidacak, Jr. of the 355th Security Forces Squadron. Airman Vidacak is a security forces desk sergeant. According to his first sergeant, Master Sgt. Douglas Delashmit, he was nominated for the spotlight because he, "is our (355th) Security Forces Squadron Airman of the Year."

The following are Airman Vidacak's responses to a variety of questions.

Main job responsibilities: I maintain, command and control posts and patrols. I also dis-

patch patrols to all law enforcement or security incidents involving the base.

Career goals: My goal is to successfully accomplish what I think is most difficult about the military; balancing work (i.e. deployments) and family.

Hobbies, outside activities: I enjoy lifting weights, playing soccer and playing golf.

What has been your best assignment and why: Aviano Air Base, Italy; I was able to travel most of Europe and I met my wife there.

If you were an Air Force recruiter, what would you tell people about the Air Force? I would tell them that it is a great opportunity to serve their country, travel and earn money for their education; all while learning life's hard lessons.

What is the best advice you have received in the Air Force? If things start looking bad, continue pressing-on to the best of your ability and it will iron itself out.

Your most memorable moment in the Air Force? My first rocket attack while stationed in Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

Name someone who inspires you (or that you admire) and why: My father; he is the reason that I am who I am.

Mentorship Memos

Community Food Bank

The Community Food Bank seeks help to open cases and pack food boxes. Friday and Saturday are typical work days and unit groups are welcome. Volunteers need to be at least 16 years old and able to lift 30 pounds. For more information, contact Kristen at 622-0525 extension 204 or e-mail khershberger@communityfoodbank.com.

Mobile Meals of Tucson

Mobile Meals of Tucson is looking for help delivering special meals to the home bound. The D-M community delivers meals every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, or to volunteer, send an e-mail to nikesha.perryman@dm.af.mil.

Earth Day

The City of Tucson will celebrate Earth Day April 16. A large number of volunteers are needed April 15 and the day of the event. To assist in coordinating all the volunteers from D-M, a project officer is also needed. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jeff Halstead at 228-3891 or e-mail jeffrey.halstead@dm.af.mil.



Airman 1st Class Robert Watson, 355th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, secures an axis panel on an external fuel tank for the A-10 Thunderbolt.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce



Staff Sergeant Ruben Serna, 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, uses a forklift to simulate unloading cargo off a C-5 aircraft while Senior Airman Xzavious Jeffery, 755th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, directs the unloading during a local Phase One operational readiness exercise Feb. 10 through 12.

D-M Airmen prove they are ready during 'no notice' ORE

By Senior Airman
Brandy Dupper-Macy
355th Wing Public Affairs

After months of preparing for the 'no notice' operational readiness exercise, approximately 1,000 D-M Airmen received exercise deployment orders and proved they are ready to deploy when called.

The Phase One kicked off Feb. 10 and ended Feb. 12.

"The 'no notice' exercise proved a point," said Maj. James Bennett, 355th Wing inspections chief. "Our exercise skills and knowledge increased based on the regularity that we were conducting exercises. The more we exercised, the better skilled at winning the game we became."

"The rough areas were smoothed out and wing leadership wanted to refine the processes that mobilize and move people and equipment out of town," said Master Sgt. David Orrick, 355th Wing Inspections and Plans superintendent.

"The perception was we were doing business the same way we did five years ago," Major Bennett said. "The biggest change from five years ago is our people are more educated and have been challenged with greater responsibility. Leadership

wanted to capitalize on the change."

In order to validate the changes that were occurring and break the exercise mold leadership wanted to do something that was not like the exercises of the past, by giving a 'no notice' test, Sergeant Orrick said.

"It did prove to the Airmen on the maintenance line and the processing line that if called to fight at a moment's notice, we can do it," Major Bennett said. "Our game plan is much better than it was six months ago."

"The grades the wing will receive for the exercise really don't mean anything for a 'no notice' exercise because it does not follow the same rules of the operational readiness inspection," Sergeant Orrick said.

However, it does show the troops it is possible to get Airmen out the door with little warning and shows that it is possible to generate more aircraft in less time than would be required for an inspection, Sergeant Orrick said.

"Talk to anyone who was at D-M 18 months ago and ask them if we could generate 24 airplanes in less than 60 hours and the answer would (have been) no," Major Bennett said.

But Davis-Monthan Airmen

Taking President's Day to reflect on America's leaders

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman

Alaskan Command

Public Affairs

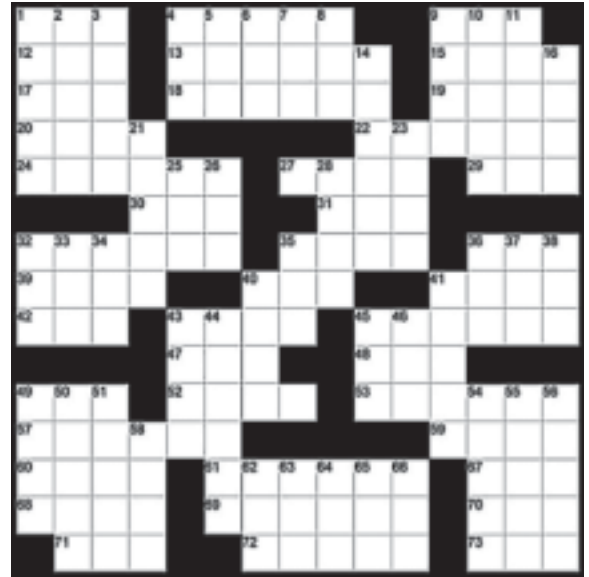
Across

1. Sprint competitor
4. 2nd President
9. Bar bill
12. Color
13. 5th President
15. Unfortunately
17. Swiss mount
18. Copyright
19. Mona ____
20. Equal
22. 30th President Coolidge
24. Pact
27. Eye shadow
29. Terminate
30. Formerly known
31. Gamble
32. 40th President
35. Italian money, once
36. Something to write on
39. Fashion magazine
40. Opposite of 58 Down
41. Wise

42. California time, in short
43. Sgts.
45. 28th President
47. Mistake
48. Opposite of 45 Down
49. Former USSR spy org.
52. Beatty and others
53. Draw
57. Spoke
59. Stick
60. ____ Bridges
61. Cell occupant
67. Actor Stephen
68. Against
69. 33rd President
70. Damage
71. X
72. Jellies
73. Doctors' workplaces, in short

Down

1. Conform
2. 10th President
3. Plains Indian house
4. Guitar need
5. Morgue status, in brief
6. Picnic pest
7. Mil. meal
8. Offspring
9. Lanky
10. Animate
11. Chasm
14. Glass cutter
16. Grind down
21. Barbecue pit
23. ____ Vista
25. Summer drink
26. Desire
28. Newspaper part
32. Dem. opponent
33. Golfer Ernie
34. Model Carol
35. ____ Vegas
36. La ___, Bolivia
37. Earlier
38. Lair
40. 38th President
41. Rest
43. Hawaiian bird
44. Card type
45. Existed
46. Bother
49. Hawaiian town



(Editor's Note: The solution for this crossword is located on Page 24. For questions regarding the puzzle, call 228-3071.)

50. 18th President
51. Moisten; in regards to cooking
54. Singer Mel
55. AFS in Alaska
56. Listens
58. Lean
62. Gun lobby
63. Cup
64. Dr.'s org.
65. Road material
66. USN rank



BJ Pritchett, D-M Tae Kwon Do assistant instructor, reviews self-defense techniques with Levi (right) and Alex Keltz, sons of Matt and Tech. Sgt. Betsi Keltz, 355th Medical Support Squadron. The class is for youth ages 5 through 17 years.

D-M offers class to teach youth art of Tae Kwon Do

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
355th Wing Public Affairs

D-M Tae Kwon Do provides children 5 through 17 years old self-defense training biweekly at the Haeffner Fitness Center.

The class teaches children how to defend themselves in a controlled and supervised environment, said Senior Airman Joseph Cruz, 355th Security Forces Squadron and D-M Tae Kwon Do instructor.

In addition, the class is also designed to develop confidence, discipline, self-esteem, patience

and self-control, Airman Cruz said.

Children learn various blocking and kicking techniques in addition to forms, grappling and sparring.

Students who are dedicated to earning their Tae Kwon Do black belt can normally do so in four years, Airman Cruz said.

The class is offered Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Haeffner Fitness Center. After April 4, the class will be taught at the D-M Youth Center. The class fee is \$30 per month.

For more information, or to sign up, call Airman Cruz at 514-9119 or the D-M Youth Center at 228-8844.



Jamie Good, daughter of Sean and Claudia Good, Child Development Center, practices the correct form of an outside block with the assistance of Senior Airman Joseph Cruz, 355th Security Forces Squadron and D-M Tae Kwon Do instructor.

Sports Shorts

Roadrunner Little League

The D-M Youth Center will hold baseball registrations for the 2005 Roadrunner Little League baseball season Saturday and Feb. 26 from noon to 2 p.m. Birth certificates and annual physical cards are required. Registration costs are \$30 for ages 5 to 8 years and \$50 for ages 9 to 15 years. The cost for ages 9 to 15 years who are non youth center members is \$55. March 5 and 12 from 9 a.m. to noon, the center will host baseball skill evaluations for ages 7 to 8 years and 9 to 12 years at the baseball fields behind the 12th Air Force headquarters. A registration table will be available during skill evaluations. After this date, registrations will only be taken to fill teams. Baseball practices begin the week of March 21 and baseball opening ceremonies

are scheduled for April 9. March 29 and 30 from 6 to 7 p.m. there will be a mandatory parent meeting. At least one parent should attend one of these meetings. Highly motivated volunteers are needed to fill positions of Little League baseball managers, coaches and umpires. All coaches training is provided through the National Youth Sport Coaches Association. Umpires are trained by Little League certified umpire staff. The success of every youth sport is based on its volunteer staff. For more information contact the D-M Youth Center at 228-8844 or 228-8365.

Swim club

The 100 and 200-mile swim club program at the Indoor Fitness Pool has expanded for 2005.

The pool will be adding 300 and 500-mile clubs to the mileage program. Swimmers in the 200-mile club are enrolled automatically and there is no time limit for the program. T-shirts are awarded to participants who complete each milestone.

D-M Biathlon Series

The D-M Biathlon Series kicked off Jan. 31 with a 500-meter swim and 1.5-mile run at the Fitness and Sports Center. Two events remain including a 600-meter swim and 2-mile run Feb. 28 and a 800-meter swim and 3-mile run March 28. Participation in all three events is not mandatory. The object of the D-M Biathlon Series is to promote training and improve distance as well as time for each event. T-shirts are awarded to those who complete each program.

Sports Shorts

Umpires needed

The Pantano Little League is seeking individuals interested in being volunteer umpires. The job entails learning the rules of Little League and attending training clinics for the position of umpire. The training includes mechanics and rule interpretation. Games begin in April. All volunteers must complete the volunteer application form available at <http://eteamz.active.com/pantanolittleleague>. For more information, call 722-0474 or send an e-mail to respectthegame@earthlink.net.

UDTF 8-Ball Tournament

There will be an 8-Ball Tournament Feb. 26 in the D-M dorms from 7 p.m. to midnight. Individuals and partners are welcome to participate. Top finishers will receive prizes. To sign up, contact a dorm president. For more information, send an e-mail to Capt. Caronwyn Jones at caronwyn.jones@dm.af.mil.

Guard Start

The Indoor Fitness Pool will start

a program called Guard Start this summer. The program is for youth ages 11 to 14 years who are too young to get a Lifeguard License but who are interested in learning lifeguard basics. Each participant will receive Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator and First Aid certification. At the end of the program youth will be allowed to volunteer with the Outdoor Recreational Pool Staff and assist with lessons, recreational swimming and more. For more information, call Amy Dent at 228-0015.

Water aerobics classes

Indoor Fitness Pool water aerobics classes are now held Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. Anyone interested in lessons, individual workouts, stroke clinics, videotaping or competition swimming are welcome to stop by the pool office. The staff also can help set up one-on-one training sessions.

Bog Springs Hike

Madera Canyon is located near Green Valley in the Santa Rita Mountains. The Bog Springs Hike is

about six miles with an elevation gain of 1,760 feet. Dress for the weather and bring water, snacks and lunch. The cost of \$15 includes transportation, park fees and guide. Participants should sign up no later than March 3. For more information, call 228-3736.

Salt River rafting

Outdoor recreation has a trip March 19 down the Salt River. Participants can raft through six class three rapids and five class two rapids. No experience is needed as instruction will be provided. Participants must be at least 12 years old. The cost of \$140 includes transportation, wetsuits, rafting and lunch. Participants should sign up no later than Saturday. For more information, call 228-3736.

Verde River Kayak

The D-M community is invited to run the rapids of the Verde River from Camp Verde to Beasley Flats. Participants must be at least 12 years old. The cost of \$150 includes equipment, wet suits, lunch, transportation and trip leaders. Participants should sign up by Feb. 25. For more information, call 228-3736.

Basketball

Monday/Wednesday under 30

Team	W-L-T
355 AMXS 1	8-0-0
755 AMXS	8-1-0
ANG	7-1-0
CES	4-4-0
563 MXS 1	3-5-0
ARMY	2-6-0
EMS	2-7-0
755 OSS	1-6-0
41 ECS	1-6-0

Monday/Wednesday over 30

Med Gp	7-1-0
355 AMXS	6-2-0
755 AMXS	5-3-0
CMS	2-6-0
LRS	0-8-0

Tuesday/Thursday under 30

SFS	7-1-0
CMS	6-2-0
SVS	5-2-0
LRS	5-3-0
355 AMXS 2	4-4-0
Med Gp	4-5-0
DECA	3-4-0
355 OSS	3-4-0
CS	1-6-0
563 MXS 2	0-7-0

Tuesday/Thursday over 30

SVS	8-0-0
CPTS	4-4-0
CONS	3-5-0
CS	1-7-0

(Editor's Note: List current as of Monday)

Chapel Information

Services and activities offered by the D-M chapel are listed below. For more information on Jewish or Muslim services; Sunday School programs; Vacation Bible School; Bible studies; youth groups; and ministries, call 228-5411.

Catholic Mass schedule

Saturday: First Saturday Mass is the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in Hope Chapel. The Mass is followed by a breakfast fellowship. For more information, call Jeff Morgan at 574-2567.

Mass is at 5 p.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 4:30 p.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Sunday: Mass is at 7:30 and 10 a.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation is at 9:15 a.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Daily: Mass is at 11:30 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Rosary begins at 11:10 a.m. at Desert Dove.

Protestant Services schedule

Sunday: Contemporary Service is at 9:45 a.m. and Gospel Service is at 11:15 a.m. at Hope Chapel. Traditional Service is at 11:15 a.m. at Desert Dove Chapel.

Education Services

OTS Non-Technical Board

Officer Training School has rescheduled the next Non-Technical Board for Aug. 2. The deadline to the base training and education services office will be June 24. Applications can be submitted no earlier than June 15. For more information, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Changes to education channels

Effective April 26, Cox Communications will delete the following education channels for on base residents: Pima College 1; Pima College 2; University of Arizona; Tucson Unified School District. For more information, call 884-0133.

New education department Web site

Students and employers can now access a master list of accredited colleges, universities and career and trade schools thus helping combat the growing problem of diploma mills. The Department of Education Web site is www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation. It should be noted that some institutions have chosen not to participate in the federal student aid program and therefore do not have to be approved by an accrediting agency recognized by the Department of Education. These institutions will not appear on the Department's list and they may be legitimate schools. Personnel are to use the list as an initial source of information and to investigate further whenever an institution does not appear on the list. For more information, call Norma White at 228-4249 or Rafael Maldonado at 228-3484.

Automotive Service Excellence Testing

The 2005 ASE testing will be held in May. Deadline to order material is March 18. For more information, call Phil King at 228-3812.

Offerings at Tiffin University

Tiffin University will offer a Criminal Justice

Master's Degree with a Homeland Security concentration. The curriculum for the degree will be delivered exclusively online to enable military personnel to do their required coursework anywhere in the world. The program consists of 16 two credit hour courses offered in eight seven-week sessions. The degree emphasizes leadership, communication, information systems, accounting, marketing and more. For more information, visit www.tiffin.edu or contact Jeff Perry at perryj@tiffin.edu or at (800) 968-6446 extension 3358.

Family Support Center

Veteran's Affairs claims assistance

A Veteran's Affairs representative will provide group appointments concerning veterans and disability benefits Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Building 3200, Room 266. To sign up, call 228-5690.

Pre-separation counseling

This mandatory class for departing Airmen will take place at the D-M Family Support Center Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. and will acquaint them with services and agencies available to help transition to the civilian workforce. The class size is limited to 20 attendees and should be scheduled no later than 90 days before separating. To sign up, call 228-5690.

Heart Link Spouse Orientation

New Air Force spouses are invited to attend the Heart Link Spouse Orientation for food, fun activities, games and prizes Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club. Information from various organizations will be presented. Attendees can meet base leadership and other D-M spouses. For reservations, call 228-5690. Free lunch and childcare will be provided.

Car Buying Seminar

This seminar will help individuals learn the basics of car buying. Topics will include car buying terminology, contract terms, things to avoid and helpful resources. The class will help people be prepared before they step on a car lot.

This seminar will take place Feb. 25 from 9 to 10 a.m. in Building 3200, Rm 266. To reserve a seat, call 228-5690.

Happenings

OSC Charity Gala and Silent Auction

Invitations to the Officers' Spouses' Club Charity Gala and Silent Auction will be going out in March. The event will be April 16 at the Pima Air and Space Museum. Funds raised will benefit both military and civilian communities with the distribution of scholarships and monetary donations. Those interested in attending can call Elizabeth Kramlinger at 747-3037 or Carolyn Kincaid at 514-0948 by Feb. 25.

Home Buying Workshop

The Housing Management Office will sponsor a Home Buying Workshop March 3 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the community center. Professionals will discuss mortgage products, closing scenarios, current housing market conditions and more. For reservations, contact Tina West at 228-5548 or e-mail to sally.west@dm.af.mil.

TRICARE For Life Seminars

TRICARE will host briefings March 9 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Desert Lightning Community Center for their beneficiaries, ages 65 and above, who have questions or require more information regarding TRICARE For Life. For more information, call Barbara West at 228-2634.

Women's History Month

March is a month set aside by Presidential Proclamation to celebrate Women's History Month. Since 1968, the Department of Defense has proudly supported special observances through the development of local programs of recognition and many diverse activities. This year's theme is "Women Change America." With March just around the corner, the Women's History Month committee is seeking volunteers, male or female, to help plan and organize the month's celebration. Those who are interested or want to get involved, can contact Staff Sgt. Tracey Murray at 228-9719.

Movies

Admission is for Department of Defense ID card holders and their guests only. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12 and senior citizens. For the theater movie recording, call 228-5694.



Today and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Fat Albert, PG — Bill Cosby's popular animated show now comes to the big screen. The movie tells the story of Fat Albert and his friends, a group of adolescents growing up in a Philadelphia neighborhood. Together, they enjoy a series of colorful misadventures that help them to learn that growing up is a lot easier with a group of good friends to stand beside. 1 hour, 40 minutes

Saturday at 7 p.m.

White Noise, PG-13 — A man, played by Michael Keaton, believes his murdered wife is trying to contact him through a medium known as Electronic Voice Phenomenon. Lost without her, he begins to investigate the medium further. Unfortunately, his attempts to communicate with the dead open the door to something sinister. 1 hour, 49 minutes





Photo by Chris Sweeney

Airman Basic Samuel Young (left) and Staff Sgt. Dominic Guliano, both with the 68th Information Operations Squadron, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, enjoy a break during their temporary duty assignment to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and check out what the Desert Lightning Community Center has to offer.

A little rest, relaxation

The Desert Lightning Community Center offers the D-M community and their guests a wide variety of entertainment in their giant game room. The room includes pool tables, darts, shuffleboard, air hockey, ping-pong and board games. They also have a PlayStation II room with game stations and a variety of the latest in video games. In the Cyber Connec-

tion, patrons can surf the Internet on 14 computers. The center's Sah-Roaring room is a home theater room which boasts a 52 inch big screen television with a surround-sound system. Patrons can check-out the latest movies and relax in style on one of their sofas or recliners. At Stormy's, patrons can try a variety of food and beverages. For more information regarding the center, call 228-3717.

Services Activities

Information for the Services Activities section courtesy of Chris Sweeney, 355th Services Squadron. For questions regarding this information, contact him at 228-7352.

Children's Workshop

The Children's Workshop covers a variety of arts and crafts projects. February's class is Feb. 26 and children will make clay pot totem poles. The cost of \$6 includes all of the supplies. The class will run from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 228-4385.

Scrapbooking class

The Davis-Monthan community is invited to let their creativity flow at the D-M Arts and Crafts Center Feb. 26 during a scrapbooking class. Cost of the class for new students is \$10. Returning students receive a \$2 discount. All supplies are included. The class time is from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 228-4385.

Graphic design shop

For those who are looking for something different for a going away gift, stop by the graphic shop in the D-M Arts and Crafts Center. The full service shop is there to provide for the base community's entire award, gift giving and presentation needs. They design brochures, flyers and invitations as well as personalized business cards. They also offer laser engraving and sandblasting on a wide variety of items,

such as beer and coffee mugs, pen sets, desk wedges, decanters, wine glasses and many other items. For more information, call 228-4385.

Lunch, brunch at Desert Oasis

While The Mirage Officers' Club undergoes major renovations until July 2005 to build a new base conference center, club patrons can enjoy an all ranks lunch buffet in The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club ballroom Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For lunch, customers can choose from daily buffets and specials for \$7.85. Members receive a \$2 discount plus they can use a Services Buck, making their entire lunch cost \$4.85. If a full buffet is too much, the club also offers a soup and salad bar for \$6.75. Again, members receive a \$2 discount and can use a Services Buck, dropping the cost to \$3.75.

Patrons can get a Members First "Lunch Bunch" card punched each time they eat at the club and their sixth lunch is free.

Every Sunday, The Desert Oasis offers a Champagne Brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$12.95 with members receiving a \$2 discount and may use a Services Buck. The cost for children ages 6 to 12 years is \$3.95 (dependents of members receive a \$2 discount); and kids ages 5 and under are \$2 (dependents of members are free). During renovations, the Mirage Poly Bar and barber shop will remain open. Cabanas Restaurant in The Desert Oasis will also continue normal operating hours. For more information, call 228-3100.

Hours of operation

The following are the hours of operation for D-M's Services Activities during the week of the Presidents Day Holiday.

Arts and Crafts Center	228-4385
Closed Mon.; Tues., Wed. and Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thurs. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat. noon to 4 p.m.	
Auto Skills Center	228-3614
Closed Sun. and Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	
Blanchard Golf Course	228-3734
Daily, sunrise to sunset	
Bowling Center	228-3461
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Thurs., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.	
Cabanas	747-3234
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Thurs. 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 3 to 8 p.m. No deliveries between 2 and 4 p.m. Tues. through Fri.	
D-M Child Development Center	228-3336
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	
Community Center	228-3717
Sun. noon to 1 a.m.; Mon. noon to 6 p.m.; Tues. - Thurs. 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri. 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Sat. noon to 1 a.m.	
The Desert Inn Dining Facility	228-5501
Sat. - Mon. 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.; Tues. - Fri. 5:15 to 7:45 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.	
The Desert Oasis Barber Shop	748-8710
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.	
The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club	228-3100
Closed Mon.; Cashier Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Shockwave Lounge opens at 3 p.m. Wed. - Fri.; Lunch Tues. - Fri. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Caterer by appointment only Tues. - Fri.	
Eagles Nest Restaurant	228-7066
Located at the Golf Course: Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Family Child Care	228-2201
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	
Finley Child Development Center	228-6463
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	
Fitness and Sports Center	228-0022
Sun. and Mon. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tues. - Thurs. open 24 hours; Fri. 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	
Fitness and Sports Center Pool	228-0015
Mon. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tues. - Fri. 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Haefner Fitness Center	228-3714
Closed Sat. - Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.	
Inn on Davis-Monthan	748-1500
Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week	
Information, Tickets & Travel	228-3700
Closed Mon.; Tues. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	
Library	228-4381
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental	228-3736
Closed Sun. and Mon.; Tues. and Thurs. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	
Outdoor Recreational Pool	228-3759
The Outdoor Recreational pool will be closed until May 1.	
Paintball Range	228-3736
Sat. and Sun. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call for weekday hours	
Stormy's Cyber Cafe	228-3717
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.	
The Mirage Officers' Club	228-3301
The Mirage will be closed for renovations until July 2005. All lunch, cashier, catering and special evening dining has been moved to The Desert Oasis Enlisted Club. The Polly Bar will remain open 4 p.m. Thurs. and Fri.	
The Mirage Barber Shop	748-8968
Closed Mon.; Tues. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Veterinarian	228-3529
Closed Mon. Subject to change: Tues. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	

